



The HPD News

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August 2002

Grandparents' Luncheon Set for September 6

The Community Outreach Division is again coordinating the Houston Police Department's annual Grandparents' Luncheon that will be held on Friday, September 6, 2002. This year's Grandparents' Luncheon will be held at Brady's Landing Restaurant at 8505 Cypress. Chief of Police C.O. Bradford will acknowledge the important role of grandparents in providing invaluable family support, positive influence, and stability for their grandchildren. This year's luncheon is expected to draw nearly 600 participants.

Highlights of the luncheon will include the opportunity for guests to meet members of the police department's Command Staff and Houston City Council members. Guests will also receive a complimentary gift from Chief Bradford and a chance to win donated door prizes.

The Grandparents' Luncheon is underwritten by area corporations and businesses. For more information about the Grandparents' Luncheon, contact Tommie Allen in the Community Outreach Division at (713) 308-9104.



Arrangements have been set for the 11th Annual Community Outreach Division Grandparents' Luncheon celebrating the positive efforts of Houston's grandparents.

Your Participation Makes National Night Out Successful



August 6, 2002
6 P.M. - 10 P.M.

On Tuesday, August 6, 2002, the downtown National Night Out rally will be held at Hermann Square (City Hall), Bagby at Smith, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mayor Lee P. Brown, Police Chief C.O. Bradford, Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas, and METRO Police Chief Tom Lambert will participate in the downtown observance of National Night Out 2002.

On Tuesday evening, National Night Out 2002 events will take place throughout the city and the county. Neighborhoods throughout the area are encouraged to take part in the country's largest crime-fighting program. Contact your local law enforcement agency such as the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Sheriff's Department, METRO Police, Houston Independent School District Police, or local constable's office to obtain materials and participation forms.

Get to know your neighbors on August 6 during National Night Out 2002 and help reduce crime in Houston/Harris County.

Chief's Column

Summer vacation ends this month for many Houston area children who will be returning to school. On Monday, August 19, 2002, more than 200,000 students will begin attending schools in the Houston Independent School District. There are more than 1,400 school zones for approximately 500 schools within the district. These school zones are marked with either flashing lights or signs indicating the times the school zone speed limit is effective. The speed limit in all school zones is 20 miles per hour.

The Houston Police Department's Radar Task Force will have officers posted in many school zones throughout the city. The Traffic Enforcement Division will also assist in keeping children safe while crossing through school zones.

A new tool for the Radar Task Force officers to use is a Light Detection and Ranging (LDR) device that can not only clock the speed of a vehicle but can also mark the beginning and end of the school zone. An LDR will give the officer a digital readout of the vehicle's speed

and its distance from the officer when the violation occurred. Some vehicles have been monitored as far away as 2,000 feet.

Of course, any Houston police officer who observes a moving violation within a school zone should immediately take the proper action to stop the motorist.

It is everyone's job to keep our children safe as they travel to and from school each day.



Three Opportunities To Give the "Gift of Life" in August

The Houston Police Department Wellness Center will hold three blood drives in August. In order to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds, and have no history of serious illnesses or diseases such as cancer, heart disease, liver disease, or kidney disease. The blood drives will be held on:

August 6 at the Houston Police Officers' Union Building at 1602 State Street

August 13 at the Kingwood Police Station at 3915 Rustic Woods Drive

August 28 at the North Patrol Division at 9455 West Montgomery Road

For more information about the blood drives, contact Officer Mark Caronna in the Wellness Center at (713) 308-1298.



Police Chief C.O. Bradford (r.) pins an HPD badge on Felix F. Rios at the recent graduation ceremony for Cadet Class 180. The 74 members of the class are now on probationary assignments throughout the city.

Who's That "Other" Sketch Artist at HPD?

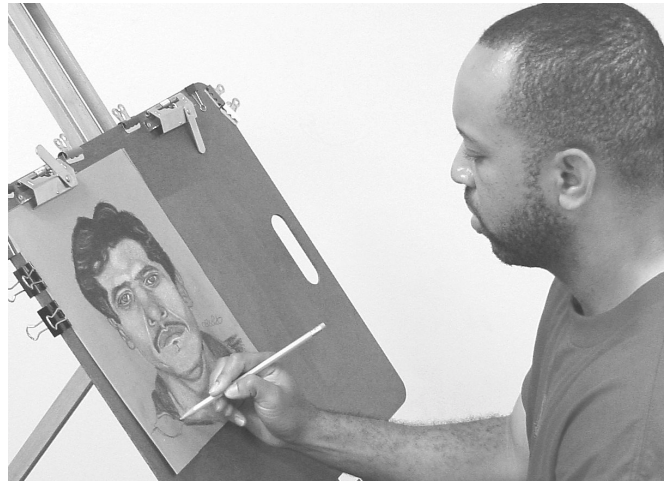
Two years ago, Officer Adrian White (D.A.R.E. Unit) bought a book titled *How to Draw Lifelike People from Portraits*. After reading the book, Officer White realized he wanted to be a forensic sketch artist.

Officer White has always had a talent for drawing. At an early age, he would sketch cartoon characters and portraits of people that would leave his family and friends amazed. Through the years, the positive feedback continued and that convinced Officer White to follow his passion to become an artist.

One night last year, Officer White decided it was time to act. He was watching a television news broadcast and saw a composite drawn by Houston Police Department forensic artist Lois Gibson. Officer White was inspired to contact Ms. Gibson to show her some of his work. Through follow-up meetings with her, Officer White said he was encouraged to continue his efforts. "Lois has been amazing, very supportive, and persistent in getting me to help her out and sketch as much as I can," said Officer White. In the past month, he has done ten sketches. One of those sketches led to the arrest of two suspects in an aggravated sexual assault case in Harris County.

Officer White takes his composite work seriously. He attended a 40-hour course on Forensic Art taught by Ms. Gibson at Sam Houston State University. "I learned a lot about how to interview witnesses and victims, the study of age progression, and how to come up with a sketch from skeletal remains," said Officer White. "A lot of people can draw, but the most important part of doing the composite is the interview. You have to have the ability to take what that witness or victim saw and reach inside their mind and turn on a light to get the information necessary to get that suspect's likeness."

Officer White said he has many goals to achieve in his law enforcement career. Near the top of that list will be leaving his name, A.L. White, on sketches that lead to arrests.



Officer Adrian White (Community Services - D.A.R.E. Unit) works on a composite sketch of a suspect wanted by HPD.

This Month in HPD History: August

The "Pre-Crime" Division described in the recent science-fiction film *Minority Report* could have easily borrowed a page from the very first Rules Manual of the Houston Police Department, which was approved on August 16, 1873. In the movie, officers are able to "see" crimes before they happen and are then able to arrest the suspects before they act. Rule #6 of the manual urges Houston police officers to "prevent the commission of assaults, breaches of the peace, and all other crimes about to be committed."

Also in the month of August, a new squad was formed. In the late seventies, Houston's demographics were rapidly changing. Homicide incidents involving Hispanic victims and suspects were increasing and there was only one Spanish-speaking investigator in the Homicide Division. On August 20, 1979, Chief of Police Harry Caldwell approved the transfer of additional Spanish-speaking officers from patrol to the Homicide Division for 90 days. The success obtained by homicide investigators Joe DeLeon, Robert Gatewood, U.P. Hernandez, Cecil Mosqueda, and Jose Selvera earned them the nickname "The Chicano Squad," which is still used today.

Twins Begin Law Enforcement Careers at HPD

Most HPD employees do a double take when they leave the 1200 Travis building after 2 p.m. and see Police Service Officer Tanika Tucker “again” after seeing her in the morning when they first went in. Rest assured, the City is not paying her overtime for pulling double shifts almost every day. PSO Tucker has an identical twin. Both Tanika (second shift) and Shanika (first shift) work security at the HPD Administrative Headquarters, and although there are very few differences between them (even their employee numbers are almost identical), their genes are only the surface of their life story.

They are 21 years old. Standing an inch taller and a minute older, Tanika began to work for HPD in November 2000, a month earlier than Shanika. They applied for the position at the same time when their brother, Officer Garland Tucker (Northeast Patrol Division) suggested that as PSOs they would get a better feel for law enforcement work. The twins want to be police officers because they like helping people. Their braced-teeth smiles show it. They have dreamed about being police officers since they were six and saw cop shows on television. Those dreams became a definite goal after October 1, 1992.

“My sister-in-law (Linda Marie Tucker) was kidnapped, raped, and murdered on her birthday,” said Shanika with a stern voice, her soft smile briefly disappearing. “The man who did it is sitting on death row and has not been executed because he says he is mentally retarded,” she said, referring to Theodore Goins. The ordeal and the way their mother, Ruby Tucker, coped with it made an impact on the entire family.

Mrs. Tucker has been active in the law enforcement community through the Positive Interaction Program. She currently serves on the Citizens Review Committee, scrutinizing the most serious investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Division. She raised the two boys orphaned in the 1992 tragedy. Chris, now 13, and Lawrence, now 16, also want to be police officers. Shanika says their mother gives them all of her support.

After graduating from M. B. Smiley High School in 1999, the twins began working toward degrees in criminal law at Houston Community College. Both agree working for the Command Center has been an eye-opener. “I enjoy it so much. I have never missed a day of work,” says Tanika. They are looking forward to taking the Civil Service Exam and becoming cadets.

“I want to make my mark in HPD. Every day I sit next to all of these pictures (of former chiefs in the lobby) and I do not see anybody else like me,” said Tanika. “I know I can be the first African-American female Chief of Police.”



Just so you don't confuse them next time you see them, PSO Tanika Tucker is the one on the left, Shanika is on the right.